Dear Sylvia, 11/18/70

The arrival of your letters of the 15th to Garrison and the 16th to Hoch is timely, as the enclosed shows. I wrote Paul again this morning.

I have no copy of Garrison's book and I cannot justify buying it at this time, our finances being, as the passing of timemakes inevitable, slightly poorer. Eventually, I believe, one of the many friendly strangers with whom I correspond will send me his copy after proper regurgitation. From my knowledge of him, I'd estimate it to be a very well written generality, with slight specification, and close to total avoidance of the Shaw case and either no or next to no content of any New Orleans investigation, the latter because he, simply, made noe (I did). I would guess, considering how much work I did there and how much of his generality undoubtedly originated with me, that there will be no mention of me and my work or close to it. Perhaps, some day, you will feel that you can maintain in confidence what I would tell you, and then I will. I presume the book went on sale in advance of pub date, for your letter is dated the day before it was sup osed to appear. I never hear from any of them. I have written several letters for information they ultimately promised, after much per uasion on my part, and never did. Because he owes me money and because I gave him several hundred copies of my books, I presume Jim will not send me one of his. All of this is, I think, a greater tragedy than you have any way of realizing and also a different kind. However, I do not think his was a deliberate misquotation of your book. I know the painful way he writes, noning with great effort, all in longhand on ruled yellow pads. I've seen it. I think this was just a mistake, not intended. Your reserve, however, is as remarkable as it if commendable. I do not often find it possible, where I feel as deeply about anything as I know you do of this, to achieve such restraint.

On Paul, yours is an excelent letter with a fine approach.

Let me go back to Jim a minute. If you find other errors, I am establishing a file on this book for several reasons, including ultimate achival value. Had it been necessary, I was prepared to do a special, fast book titled "Lemming". I doubt it will be called for or worthwhile, and the legitimate criticism, for which so many of our "colleagues" are so largely responsible, will go uncollected, except in files.

The third and fourth paragraphs of your letter to Paul are brilliant. There may be some significance in the fact I had missed, that this seems to be the first thing he has done in connection with publication, I think he claims he never intended publication, but that does not separate it from Alvarez'. I remain without any explanation of this so out-of-character thing from Paul. I cannot conceive of him as some kind of agent, and he denies pressure. What remains includes the possibility of illness. This I ask you not to discuss with anyone. I am taking steps to see if I can explore the possibility. There is no doubt in my mind, again not for bruiting about, that Garrison and Salandria are ill, and I suspect others may be, from my contact with them. I suppose this is a field in which it may more readily develop. As with Vince, if I find credible support for this, I will let you know. I know Paul as a fine, bright, selfless young man, and this is entirely inconsistent with anything I know of him, including the care of his earlier statements, particukarly when I